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**TENDRING  
RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
for 1954

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# Tendring Rural District Council

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# TENDRING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICES,

WEELEY,

CLACTON-ON-SEA

*June 1955*

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Tendring Rural District Council*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1954 which deals with the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District.

The details of the work of the Department are given in the various sections of the Report, and I insert here a few general comments on points of interest, some of which are dealt with in more detail subsequently.

## BIRTH RATE

The fall in the total number of births has depressed the birth rate for the district to a record low figure. This decline, which has been accelerating since 1950, may continue, but however uncertain forecasts of future birth rate must be it is obvious that if the mothers of one generation produce less than an equivalent number of children for ensuing generations that the proportion of the population in the younger age groups will decrease whereas the proportion of the aged will increase. This question has already raised many serious problems for the nation.

## HOSPITALS

The position with regard to hospital accommodation for maternity patients has eased, because of the fall in the total number of births and the provision of additional maternity beds at Clacton. Mothers can now, for the most part, choose for themselves whether to have a hospital or domiciliary confinement. Institutional accommodation for the aged and chronic sick continues to lag behind the demand, but the gap is closing, and we have had less difficulty than formerly in obtaining accommodation for necessitous cases. There exists an excellent liaison between us and the officers of the chronic hospitals and institution which serve the district.

The position with regard to accommodation for mental defectives, particularly of the grosser types is anything but satisfactory. There is an appalling shortage of such accommodation and waiting lists grow longer and longer. A case in point will illustrate the position. A

grossly mentally defective boy in this district, now ten years old, has been on the waiting list, with top priority, for admission to an institution in Colchester since 1950. I am informed that there is little likelihood of a vacancy for him within the foreseeable future, and yet this case is well known to, and regarded by the authorities of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board as one of the most urgent on their extremely large waiting lists. The Board is acutely aware of the serious nature of this problem, but their limited resources appear to have prevented much progress towards remedying the deficiency.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified shows a substantial decrease on the previous year due to the fact that the district was almost free of measles, epidemics of which regularly occur in alternate years. This disease cannot be prevented but fortunately its complications are now more amenable to treatment by modern drugs.

The epidemic of jaundice which affected 70 of the 185 pupils at a Primary School in Thorpe-le-Soken burned itself out in the early months of the year without spreading to the neighbouring Primary and Secondary Schools.

The incidence of Poliomyelitis was low in the country as a whole but was more prevalent in this corner of the country than ever before. Seven cases occurred in this district, six of which were mild. The seventh case was a severe one resulting in much residual muscle paralysis.

#### HOUSING AND SEWERAGE

Housing and sewerage are still the major problems facing the Council, neither easy of solution and both involving high expenditure. They are of necessity problems for long-term programmes, but few will deny the importance of doing all possible to improve the living conditions of the people. Unfit dwellings depress the minds of the occupiers and in many instances such dwellings detract from amenity. Where bad dwellings and bad sanitation are tolerated longer than can be avoided denotes, amongst other things, lack of civic pride and indifference to amenity, health and comfort.

In dealing with housing conditions, legislation is cumbersome and open to much legal argument with interpretation of standards. Revision of the Rent Restriction Acts has not seemed to induce landlords to carry out repairs voluntarily to any noticeable extent. The Improvement Grant scheme is made more use of in making fairly decent houses better rather than in making bad ones good. There



does still seem to be need for more realistic legislation if the improvement of housing conditions is to be speeded up, both in respect of the demolition of the bad and the repair and reconditioning of others.

Nevertheless, the progress made in this district during the post war years has been considerable. That there is so much remaining to be done does not belie the fact that 135 unfit houses have been demolished, water mains have been extended to cover almost the entire district, considerable sewerage schemes have been undertaken and large new housing estates completed. In addition, efficient refuse collection and cesspool emptying services by direct labour have been established throughout the district. That there is so much need for new and improved sewerage schemes on a large scale is in no small measure due to the extent of the provision of mains water supply and new houses building.

Progress over the past several years has been good, but there is more wisdom in allowing that progress be a spur to continued effort than in being content with what has been done.

At the close of 1954 the number of applicants for Council houses totalled 505. The pattern of demand is changing gradually since the end of the war. The big family, living in overcrowded conditions, common in the late forties, has largely disappeared from to-day's list of applicants. Their place has been taken by the one child or childless families, reflecting, as it does, the increasing demand for a home of one's own and the need for housing policy to be geared to the present day and future structure of the family group; supply has to be correlated to demand not only in numbers but in location and type of housing provision made.

#### GENERAL

The old adage reads: "Prevention is better than cure," and prevention has been for long a basic duty of the local authority. In this work the Sanitary Inspector and Health Visitor play very important if undramatic roles. Their work may be unrecognised and is often not appreciated but their quiet and unspectacular part in disseminating a knowledge of healthy living is probably the most important single factor in raising and maintaining health standards.

In presenting this report I wish to acknowledge the assistance and consideration invariably given me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also to express my appreciation for the help and co-operation received from the various officers and their departments, and particularly to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Public Health Staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,  
F. L. GROARKE,  
*Medical Officer of Health*

## SECTION A

### STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF TENDRING

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	65,884
Population:							
1954 Registrar General's Estimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,380
1951 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,434
Density of population per acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	.37
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£117,754
Sum represented by penny rate (1954-5 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	470
Number of inhabited dwellings (approx.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,150
Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,431
Total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	324
Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.8
Birth rate corrected...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.4
Total still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Still birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.6
Total deaths...	...	...	...	...	...	...	345
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.1
Death rate corrected	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.8
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Infantile mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	33.9
Number of illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Percentage of total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.8
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cancer deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Tuberculosis deaths	.....	...	...	...	...	...	1

### NATIONAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.2
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.3
Infantile mortality	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.5
Still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.4



## VITAL STATISTICS

### (a) Live Births

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	166	139	305
Illegitimate	...	...	12	7	19
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	178	146	324
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate	...	...	12.8		
Comparability factor	...		1.13		
Corrected birth rate	...		14.4		

324 babies were born during the year, which is 20 less than the total for the previous year. This number of births is the lowest, excluding 1941 (307 births) since 1936 (308 births) when the population of the district was 2,100 less, and on perusing the records since 1921 it is found that the birth rate for 1954 is the lowest of any during that period of 35 years, and is likely to be the lowest rate ever recorded for this district.

The greatest number of births during any year since 1921 took place in 1947, with 478 live births, which gave a rate of 20.8 births per 1,000 of the population. The lowest number occurred during 1941 with 307 live births, which was equal to a rate of 14.5

### (b) Still Births

10 still births were registered during the year, in a total of 334 births, which gives a rate of 29.6 per 1,000 total births. Babies born dead after the 7th months of pregnancy are termed still births. Many such births are inevitable in that the foetus is so congenitally malformed as to lack organs vital to life as a result of which they cannot survive birth.

It is generally accepted that a figure lower than twenty still births per 1,000 total births cannot be expected, but a high figure possibly indicates that the mothers in a district are receiving inadequate skilled care during their pregnancy and child birth. Such care is essential to ensure that as many pregnancies as possible are successfully fulfilled and to safeguard the health of the mother. Few mothers die nowadays as a result of pregnancy and childbirth, but many still suffer from chronic ill health as a consequence.



### (c) Infant Mortality Rate

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 11, of which two died during their first day, and six during the first week of life.

The table below shows the cause of and the ages at death:—

	<i>Under 1 day</i>	<i>1 day to 1 week</i>	<i>1 month to 6 months</i>	<i>6 months to 1 year</i>	<i>Total</i>
Congenitally malformed...	1	1	1	—	3
Atelectasis... ..	—	1	1	—	2
Haemorrhagic disease ...	—	1	—	—	1
Prematurity ... ..	—	1	1	—	2
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Hepatitis ... ..	—	—	—	1	1
Birth injury ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
	2	4	4	1	11

All of these babies received hospital treatment for their conditions, and in one case a major operation was undertaken in a vain endeavour to save the life of a three-day-old baby boy.

### (d) Deaths

The total number of deaths during the year was 345, of which 182 were males and 163 were females. This figure, which is 14 less than last year represents a death rate of 14.1 per 1,000 of the population.

The principal causes of, and various ages at, death are given in the following tables.

Death at various ages during 1954.

Under 1 year ... ..	11
1 and under 2 years ...	1
2 and under 5 years ...	1
5 and under 15 years ...	3
15 and under 25 years ...	2
25 and under 35 years ...	5
35 and under 45 years ...	10
45 and under 55 years ...	11
55 and under 65 years ...	39
65 and under 75 years ...	73
75 and under 85 years ...	118
85 and under 95 years ...	68
95 and under 100 years ...	2
100 years ... ..	1
	<hr/>
	345

(e) **Causes of Death during 1954**

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	0	1	1
Tuberculosis, other forms ... ..	0	0	0
Cancer (all sites) ... ..	19	22	41
Leukaemia ... ..	1	0	1
Diabetes ... ..	2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	31	52	83
Coronary artery disease ... ..	25	11	36
Other heart disease ... ..	33	32	65
Other circulatory disease ... ..	10	15	25
Influenza ... ..	1	0	1
Pneumonia ... ..	9	7	16
Bronchitis ... ..	7	2	9
Other diseases of respiratory system...	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	0	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	5	0	5
Congenital malformations ... ..	3	0	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	12	31
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	4	0	4
All other accidents ... ..	5	5	10
Suicide ... ..	1	0	1
	<hr/> 182	<hr/> 163	<hr/> 345

All deaths at Heath Hospital, which numbered 71 for the year, are ascribed to this district despite the fact that of this number only eight were residents of this district prior to admission to hospital. The death rate for this district is, as a result, considerably inflated.

Certificates which mention (a) Coronary Thrombosis, (b) Cancer, (c) Accidents as the prime or contributory cause of death have been grouped according to age, with the following results.

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Coronary Thrombosis</i>	<i>Cancer</i>	<i>Accidents</i>
0-30	Nil	2	2
31-40	1	2	2
41-50	Nil	2	1
51-60	6	9	1
61-70	13	16	Nil
71-80	11	10	3
81 and over	13	9	5

## **SECTION B**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

The Medical Officer of Health holds the following appointments: Medical Officer of Health to the Rural District of Tendring, and to the Urban Districts of Clacton, Brightlingsea, Frinton and Walton.

#### **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.  
**SANITARY INSPECTORS**

Throughout the year only two sanitary inspectors have been employed, but following the opening of six private slaughterhouses from July onwards it became obvious that no more than 50–60% of the animals killed could be inspected, except by the serious neglect of many other public health duties. Consequently, towards the close of the year, the Council agreed to advertise for another additional sanitary inspector to commence duties as soon as possible in the year 1955.

#### **(a) Laboratory Facilities**

Samples of water, sewage, etc., for chemical analysis are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

The bacteriological examination of water supplies, milk supplies, ice cream, etc., is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich. Other specimens are examined at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

It is necessary for a health department to make full use of the laboratory facilities in the area, and I would like to express my appreciation for the co-operation and help which this department has received from the staff of these laboratories.

#### **(b) Health Services Provided by the Essex County Council**

- (i) Nursing in the Home
- (ii) Midwives
- (iii) Health Visitors
- (iv) Home Helps
- (v) Immunisation
- (vi) Clinics
- (vii) School Medical Service
- (viii) Ambulance Service



#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Ardleigh, Wesleyan School Room, Colchester Road: Second Thursday, 2.00 to 4.30 p.m.

Frating, Village Hall, Colchester Road: First Friday 2 to 4 p.m.

Mistley, The Institute: Every Friday 2 to 4.30 p.m.

St. Osyth, The Johnson Institute: Second Tuesday 2 to 4 p.m.

Parkeston, Wesleyan School, Garland Road: Third Tuesday 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Thorpe-le-Soken, Women's Institute, Main Road: Second and Fourth Wednesdays 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Weeley, Combined County Clinic: First and Third Friday 2 to 4 p.m.

Wix, The Chapel Room, Main Road: Second Monday 2 to 4.30 p.m.

Diphtheria immunisations are carried out at all the above clinics.

#### MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS:

School children attend at the conclusion of the Child Welfare Clinic at Weeley, Parkeston and Mistley.

#### SPECIAL CLINICS:

Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic and Child Guidance Clinics, to which children residing in the Rural District Area can attend, are held at Colchester, Clacton-on-Sea and Harwich.

#### ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC:

Combined Clinic, Weeley: First and Third Thursday 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

#### DENTAL CLINIC:

Weeley: When necessary.

#### SPEECH THERAPY:

Mistley Institute: Every Monday 1.30 to 4.0 p.m.

### **(d) Health Services Provided by the Regional Hospital Board**

#### **(i) TUBERCULOSIS**

A chest clinic is held at 2 Shewell Road, Colchester, daily and on Friday mornings at the Combined Treatment Centre, Skelmersdale Road, Clacton.

#### **(ii) VENEREAL DISEASES**

Facilities are provided at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester, and at Harwich.

- (iii) HOSPITAL FOR THE CHRONIC SICK  
Heath Hospital, Tendring.
- (iv) MYLAND HOSPITAL, COLCHESTER  
Admit cases of infectious disease which occur in this district.
- (v) MATERNITY HOSPITAL, LEXDEN ROAD, COLCHESTER  
Admit maternity cases from this area.
- (vi) GENERAL HOSPITALS  
Which cater for this area are situated at Colchester,  
Clacton and Harwich.

### **SECTION C**

#### **WATER SUPPLIES**

The water supply to the district is derived from the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company, and for the year the whole of the water supplied was extracted from the Company's boreholes at Dedham.

The quantity of water supplied to the area of the Tendring Rural District by this Company for the year amounted to 156.327 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.428 million gallons.

The total quantity taken for domestic purposes during the year was 105.493 million gallons; an average daily consumption of 0.289 million gallons. The total amount taken through trade meters was 50.834 million gallons; an average daily consumption of 0.139 million gallons.

The only main extension carried out in the district during the year was the service main on the Middlefield Housing Site, while work on the extension of the water main from John-de-Bois Hill to near the Colchester boundary through Fox Street, Ardleigh, was put in hand and was expected to be completed early in 1955. The scheme involves approximately 1,300 yards of 4-in. dia. main and will serve 49 properties. This is in the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company's area and the estimated capital cost is given at £3,450, which figure gives a cost per yard of nearly £2 15s 0d. In addition the Council has agreed to submit to the Ministry a scheme to extend the water mains at Weeley Heath and Chisbon Heath in the parishes of Weeley and St. Osyth, involving nearly four miles of main to serve between 50-60 properties, including a number of farms. Such a scheme in a sparsely populated area is very uneconomic, and it is hoped that the owners of property who have requested this extension will voluntarily connect to it to enable what little revenue is available to be obtained. Past experience in this respect has shown that the need for water mains is largely forgotten as soon as water is made available by the Council, despite desperate pleas for it beforehand.

The district is now extensively provided with water mains, and approximately 60 per cent of adjacent property is connected. The total number of domestic connections made in the year to the Company's mains in this district amount to 134, while a further 164 connections were made to the Council's mains in the western area.



27 shallow wells were sampled during the year for the purpose of determining whether the water contained an excess amount of nitrate nitrogen, which, if used in the preparation of baby feeds, can give rise to a condition known as methemoglobinemia. The examination normally takes place prior to an expected confinement. A concentration of nitrate nitrogen greater than 20 parts per million can give rise to this condition in young babies.

Results of analysis in parts per million:—

<i>Nitrate Nitrogen</i> <i>parts per million</i>	<i>Number of</i> <i>Wells</i>
0-10	6
11-20	5
21-30	6
31-40	6
41-50	2
51-60	—
61-70	—
71-80	1
81-90	—
91-100	—
101 and over...	1

These figures show that almost 60 per cent of these wells contain water which should not be used in the preparation of baby feeds. Mothers were promptly informed of the results of these examinations and advised to either breast feed their babies or obtain the required water from the mains until baby reached the age of one year.

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION OF THE AREA'S WATER SUPPLY

					TENDRING HUNDRED WATERWORKS COMPANY—DEDHAM WORKS	
					<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
pH...	...	...	...	...	7.7	7.6
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	870	800
Chlorine present as Chlorides	...	...	...	...	128	108
Hardness. Total	...	...	...	...	285	270
Carbonate	...	...	...	...	260	255
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	...	25	15
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.0	0.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.32	0.26
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Metals. Iron	...	...	...	...	0.25	0.08



				<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>
Turbidity	...	...	...	3	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	10	7
Total solids	...	...	...	560	510
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate				265	255
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	0.20	0.0
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	0.24	0.09

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

No. of Colonies developing on Agar. 1 day at 37 C. 2 days at 37 C.

0 per ml. 0 per ml.  
3 days at 20 C.

Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction. 0 per ml.  
Present in Absent from  
- ml. 100 ml.  
Probable No.

0 per 100 ml.  
*Present in.* *Absent from.* *Probable No.*  
Bact. coli. (Type 1) - ml. 100 m.i 0 per 100 ml.  
Cl. welchii Reaction - ml. 100 m.l

### REMARKS

These samples are practically clear and bright in appearance, have a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and are free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These are satisfactory results indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

These services are supervised by the Chief Sanitary Inspector

(a) Refuse collection, which is done by direct labour increases year by year. The four petrol-driven side-loading vehicles and the one open truck are becoming somewhat out-dated, and serious consideration is now being given to the purchase of a diesel-engined rear loading compressor type of vehicle. The need for easier loading and larger capacity vehicles to reduce mileage and economise on fuel and man-power is becoming more obvious. Even with the three tips at Weeley, Lawford and Parkeston, a district with more than 240 miles

of roads in 24 parishes involves very long hauls. The established routine is for the areas of Manningtree, Mistley, Lawford and Parkeston to be dealt with weekly and the remainder of the rural district every two weeks, but this routine cannot be held without larger transport or more man-power.

(b) Cesspool emptying has necessitated the purchase of a second machine and the opportunity was taken to obtain one powered with a diesel engine. This was obtained in September, 1954, but the existing petrol engine machine had to be sent away for reconditioning and it was not possible to have the two machines in service together during the year. A charge of 12s. 6d. per load for domestic and 25s. per load for trade premises is made, and a total of 1,534 loads were dealt with. Disposal of cesspool contents is not without its problems in the winter months, farmers not seeming to find composting with this form of sewage very attractive.

The amount of sewage removed from cesspools was in the region of 1,000,000 gallons, and the income from charges £995 5s. 0d.

(c) The salvage collections are made jointly with refuse collection and the following sales were made during the year.

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	183	2	1	14	1,382	15	5
Textiles...	...	...	...		15	0	0	17	5	6
Bones	...	...	...		2	2	0		15	0
Ferrous Metals...	...	...	...	17	14	1	0	64	11	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		1	0	0	1	14	6
				201	15	0	14	1,467	2	2

These figures show an increase of 4 tons and a increased income of £69 over the year 1953.

### **Rats and Mice Destruction**

Sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are dealt with systematically. All domestic premises are treated free of charge, but trade and agricultural properties are charged with the cost of treatment.

The Agricultural Executive Committee have contracts for the systematic treatment of thirty-four farms, many farmers preferring to carry out their own treatment with "Warfarin." It is all to the good if farmers carry out thorough treatment themselves, but not in the best interest of rat extermination if done otherwise. Much publicity has been given to the Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations, 1950, whereby it is a serious offence if farmers neglect to adequately fence ricks at the time of threshing.

The district generally is reasonably well covered for inspection and treatment, and perhaps only by complete free treatment would



extermination of rats be more likely to be achieved. Rats know no boundaries, and there are many instances when free treatment on trade or agricultural premises seems as necessary as on domestic. Making charges does discourage some people from notifying infestations unless they are very badly affected. It is often the cost of contracts with the A.E.C. that induces farmers to try their own methods or not to be so concerned as they ought to be.

The number of infested premises treated by the Council were as follow:—

Council property (excluding Council Houses)	...	15
Dwelling houses	... ..	304
Agricultural property	... ..	10
Business and trade	... ..	15
		—
		344
		—

**Factories—Details of Inspection**

	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>
Factories without Mechanical power	10	1	—
Factories with Mechanical power...	59	9	3
<i>Defects</i>		<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary accommodation	... ..	2	2
Want of Cleanliness	... ..	1	1

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	
	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
Houses unfit...	95	1	14
Houses unfit (revisits)	263		
Houses with defects...	132	56	3
Houses with defects (revisits)	122		
Houses drainage	191	23	2
Houses sanitary accommodation	18	3	
Houses overcrowded	1		
Houses dirty...	12		
Houses satisfactory	3		
Clearance areas	18		
Improvement grants	16		
Houseboats	15		
Water supplies	203	48	25
Water samples collected	102		
Schools	3		
Dairies	10		



					<i>Notices Served</i>	
					<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
					<hr/>	
				<i>Total</i>		
				<i>Inspections</i>		
Food premises	...	...	...	49	1	
Bakehouses	...	...	...	4	1	
Factories	...	...	...	6	2	
Shops	...	...	...	2		
Camping grounds	...	...	...	28	1	
Caravans	...	...	...	22		
Infectious disease enquiries			...	8		
Refuse tips and deposits	...	...		38	2	
Premises inspected for rats and mice				600		
Rat and mice infestations dealt with				411		
Polluted rivers and ditches...			...	52	4	3
Sewage works	...	...	...	2		
Ice cream premises...		...	...	3		
Piggeries	...	...	...	7		
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	304	1	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	87	9	
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				2,827	152	47
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Food Inspection

(a) UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED						<i>lbs.</i>
Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	...	86
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...	...	347
Tinned beans	...	...	...	...	...	20
Tinned peas	...	...	...	...	...	92
Tinned Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	58
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...	...	62
Tinned soup	...	...	...	...	...	10
Chinese liquid egg	...	...	...	...	...	64
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	64
Imported beef	...	...	...	...	...	320
Home killed meat prior to July	...	...	...	...	...	225
<i>Home killed meat from July to end of year—</i>						
<i>Beef</i>						
3 Carcases and all organs	...	...	...	...	...	1,825
5 Forequarters...	...	...	...	...	...	531
30 Heads	...	...	...	...	...	900
81 Livers and part livers	...	...	...	...	...	796
44 Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	373
28 Mesenteries...	...	...	...	...	...	174
5 Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	12
4 Spleens	...	...	...	...	...	12

(a) UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED—*continued*

2 Hearts	...	...	...	...	...	11
2 Thick Skirts	...	...	...	...	...	5
<i>Pigs</i>						
8 Carcases and all organs	...	...	...	...	...	809
2 Part carcases...	...	...	...	...	...	105
2 Fore-legs	...	...	...	...	...	20
14 Heads	...	...	...	...	...	130
16 Plucks	...	...	...	...	...	96
28 Livers	...	...	...	...	...	84
17 Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	34
13 Mesenteries...	...	...	...	...	...	26
12 Hearts	...	...	...	...	...	9
3 Spleens	...	...	...	...	...	1
3 Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Sheep</i>						
2 Carcases and all organs	...	...	...	...	...	85
						<hr/> 7,387 <hr/>

(b) Food premises, such as shops, cafes and canteens were not inspected to the full extent that could be desired, particularly in view of the importance of hygiene with food handling, but inspections were made when possible.

(c) Six private slaughterhouses have been licensed, but one has been put to very little use. General killing did not commence until early in July, killing previously being very limited. The following animals were inspected throughout the year, the bulk being from July onwards:—

Cattle	...	...	...	355
Sheep	...	...	...	92
Pigs	...	...	...	610

### Milk Supplies

There are seventeen registered distributors supplying milk in the district of whom five have premises within the area.

The following designated milk licences were granted to retailers:

Dealer's Licences Pasteurised Milk	...	...	4
Supplementary Licences Pasteurised Milk	...	...	7
Dealer's Licences Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	4
Supplementary Licences Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	7
Dealer's Licence Sterilised Milk	...	...	1

Producers and producer-retailers are the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Ice Cream

During the year 6 persons were registered to sell ice cream under the Essex County Council Act, 1933. The total number now registered is 111. Very little ice cream, if any, is sold in this district except as pre-wrapped from reputable sources.

Caravans and Camping Grounds

There are ten camping grounds in the district; six at St. Osyth, three at Little Clacton and one at Thorpe-le-Soken. In addition eighteen individual movable dwelling licences were issued.

The three large camping grounds in the St. Osyth beach area badly lack adequate sewerage facilities. Approximately 1,000 caravans accommodating 3,000 or more campers are provided for with chemical closets, water closets to cesspools and galvanised iron tanks for ablution water, and it is not uncommon for campers to throw foul water into the stagnant marsh ditches.

The Council is most anxious for the Ministry to agree to the re-development of this area to enable suitable main drainage, improved water suply and more appropriate layout for chalets and caravans in the interest of health and amenity. The Engineer and Surveyor to the Council has devoted much time and thought to such a scheme, which is now in the hands of the Minister awaiting his decision.

SECTION D

HOUSING

RETURN FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 1954

Part A

					<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>
Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	2	3

Part B (*Not included in Clearance Areas*)

					<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>
(1) HOUSING ACT, 1936						
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	...	...			9	8
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	...				—	—
(c) Parts of buildings closed	...				—	—



## Housing—continued

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Number of Persons Displaced</i>
(2) HOUSING ACT, 1949		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1) ... ..	—	—
(b) Demolition Orders determined and closing orders substituted under Section 3 (2) ... ..	—	—
(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953		
Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) ... ..	4	9

## Repairs

	<i>Number of Houses</i>
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts.	43

### *Action under Statutory Powers*

(5) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners ... ..	31
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	3
(6) HOUSING ACT, 1936	
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)	
By owners ... ..	—
By local authority in default of owners...	—

## Housing

Good progress is being made to rehouse families from unfit dwellings, a need with which the Council is now very much concerned. Two sub-committees have been formed to make a complete survey of the district to decide the programme for the next five years. Each sub-committee spends one afternoon each month in visiting houses listed by the sanitary inspector as below a reasonable standard of fitness and which are likely to be best dealt with by demolition order procedure.

Experience has shown that a number of elderly people do not wish to be disturbed even though they are living in cottages which must be considered for demolition. It would be advantageous if demolition orders were not required to be specifically dated, but, if when deemed necessary, they could be so worded as not to enforce vacation during the lifetime of the named tenants.

## SECTION E

### Shellfish (Mulluxan)

During 1954, 1,252,358 oysters were passed through the purification tanks at Brightlingsea.

The number for the previous years were:—

1953 ... ..	1,493,831
1952 ... ..	1,510,952
1951 ... ..	1,948,775
1950 ... ..	1,762,404
1949 ... ..	1,757,793
1948 ... ..	2,044,741
1947 ... ..	1,294,900
1946 ... ..	2,325,364
1945 ... ..	1,665,347
1944 ... ..	943,082
1943 ... ..	940,658
1942 ... ..	809,600
1941 ... ..	2,055,714

## SECTION F

### PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital</i>	<i>Total deaths</i>
Dysentery ... ..	14	1	—
Erysipelas ... ..	6	—	—
Food poisoning ... ..	1	—	—
Infective hepatitis ... ..	78	1	—
Measles ... ..	16	1	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	7	6	—
Paratyphoid ... ..	1	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	9	—	—
Meningitis ... ..	2	1	—
Scarlet fever ... ..	27	9	—
Whooping cough ... ..	83	2	—
TOTALS ... ..	244	21	—



## **Poliomyelitis**

Seven cases of this disease were notified during the year affecting five adults and two boys, aged 12 and 5 years respectively. In six cases the disease was mild and a full recovery was eventually made. The exception occurred in an adult male who, as a result of this infection, developed severe paralysis of the muscles in the lower half of his body, which is causing severe disability.

It is heartening to read of the progress being made, particularly in the U.S.A. in the development of preventive measures by means of prophylactics.

## **Scarlet Fever**

27 cases of this disease were notified. Scarlet fever has, over the years, become a relatively mild infection and does not normally give rise to the many serious complications to which the sufferer from this disease was once predisposed. Patients and contacts of this disease should be free from symptoms, and nose and throat swabs should be negative before being permitted to return to school, or to certain occupations.

## **WHOOPING COUGH**

Whooping cough was the most prevalent notifiable infectious disease during the year accounting for 83 cases. This disease is a menacing one, particularly for young children, and mothers should avail themselves of the immunisation service which can be obtained from the family doctor or the nearest infant welfare clinic.

The age groups at the time of onset of the disease were as follows:—

<i>Age</i>				<i>Numbers of cases</i>
0-1	...	...	...	2
1-2	...	...	...	4
2-3	...	...	...	14
3-4	...	...	...	10
4-5	...	...	...	10
5-10	...	...	...	40
10 and over	...	...	...	3

During the year 109 infants received the primary diphtheria immunisation course at the infant welfare clinics, and a further 131 received a boosting dose. Similarly 114 infants were protected against whooping cough. Family doctors immunised an additional 67 children against diphtheria and 25 against whooping cough.

## **Dysentery**

14 cases of sonne dysentery were notified from the eastern part of the district. This is a common and usually mild bowel infection which

is difficult to eradicate from an area due to the large numbers of persons who become carriers of the germ. It can readily be spread by the contamination of food by careless handlers.

**Infective Hepatitis**

The majority of this large numbers of cases (78) occurred in pupils attending the Primary School, Thorpe-le-Soken, and members of their households, following an epidemic of this disease in the school which commenced during the last two months of 1953, and in which eventually 40 per cent of the pupils became infected despite vigorous control measures.

**TUBERCULOSIS 1954**

Age groups of the 12 cases notified and one death during the year are given in the table below:—

<i>Age Groups in Years</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-respiratory</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5-10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-75	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	3	5	1	3	—	1	—	—

New Cases, 12

Deaths, 1

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND DEATHS SINCE 1940

<i>Year</i>					<i>New cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1940	...	...	...	...	25	7
1941	...	...	...	...	33	11
1942	...	...	...	...	30	13
1943	...	...	...	...	39	11
1944	...	...	...	...	34	9
1945	...	...	...	...	32	8
1946	...	...	...	...	25	5
1947	...	...	...	...	29	7
1948	...	...	...	...	28	4
1949	...	...	...	...	25	3
1950	...	...	...	...	22	2



<i>Year</i>					<i>New cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1951	...	...	...	...	14	7
1952	...	...	...	...	19	2
1953	...	...	...	...	15	4
1954	...	...	...	...	12	1

The following figures give the number of cases on my Register at the end of 1954:—

Respiratory Male ...	54	Non-respiratory Male ...	24
Respiratory Female	26	Non-respiratory Female ...	31
	—		—
	80		55
	—		—

TOTAL CASES ON REGISTER AT END OF 1954, 140

The age groups of the cases on the register are as follows:—

<i>Age groups in years</i>	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-respiratory</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1-5 ...	—	—	4	5	9
5-15 ...	3	1	11	15	30
15-25 ...	12	13	2	3	30
25-35 ...	9	3	3	4	19
35-45 ...	11	4	1	4	20
45-55 ...	11	3	1	2	17
55-65 ...	3	1	1	2	7
65 upwards ...	5	1	1	1	8
TOTALS ...	54	26	24	36	140

